

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please cancel claim 46.

Please add new claims 85-87.

Please amend claims 38, 41-44, 49-54, 69, and 71-74 as follows.

~~E1~~ Sub F2 38. (Thrice Amended) A method of introducing a nucleic acid encoding a foreign gene into a cell in a patient, said method comprising the steps of  
(a) administering a cell cycle blocking agent to said patient, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of cyclophosphamide, taxol, taxolene, and a vinca alkaloid; and  
(b) administering said nucleic acid to said patient within seven days of step (a), wherein transfection efficiency is increased by at least 50%.

E2 41. (Once Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is a plasmid.  
42. (Once amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene comprises a gene selected from the group consisting of genes encoding a cytokine, apoptotic protein, tumor suppressor, heat shock protein, immunogenic antigen, proteinase inhibitor, anti-angiogenic protein, suicide gene for use in GDEPT, ribozyme, antisense nucleic acid, viral protein and a toxin.

43. (Once amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is administered systemically.

44. (Once amended) The method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is administered locally or regionally.

E3 49. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is administered prior to administering said foreign gene.

E3  
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50. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is administered at least 32 h prior to administering said foreign gene.

51. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is administered at least 48 h prior to administering said foreign gene.

~~52. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is administered prior to administering said cell cycle blocking agent.~~

~~53. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is administered at least 32 h prior to administering said cell cycle blocking agent.~~

~~54. (Once amended) A method of claim 38 wherein said foreign gene is administered at least 48 h prior to administering said cell cycle blocking agent.~~

E4

Sub F3

69. (Twice Amended) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells in a patient having a cancer comprising introducing a nucleic acid encoding a foreign gene into a cell in a patient having cancer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) administering a cell cycle blocking agent to said patient, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent is a member selected from the group consisting of cyclophosphamide, taxol, taxolene, and a vinca alkaloid; and

(b) administering said nucleic acid to said patient within seven days of step (a), wherein said nucleic acid is administered systemically, and wherein transfection efficiency is increased by at least 50%.

E5

71. (Once amended) The method of claim 70, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent and said foreign gene are administered distal to the site of the tumor.

72. (Once amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said cell cycle blocking agent or said foreign gene are administered intravenously.